

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT**



**U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Science  
Office of Biological and Environmental Research**

**Systems Biology, Model Organism Development, and Enzyme  
Discovery for Biological Hydrogen Production**

**Funding Opportunity Number: DE-PS02-08ER08-12**

**Announcement Type: Initial**

**CFDA Number: 81.049**

**ISSUE DATE: 1/28/2008**

**Preapplication Due Date: 2/22/2008, 4:30 PM Eastern Time (Required)**

**Application Due Date: 4/9/2008, 8:00 PM Eastern Time**

## NOTE: REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS.GOV

**Where to Submit:** Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov to be considered for award. You cannot submit an application through Grants.gov unless you are registered. Please read the registration requirements carefully and start the process immediately. Remember you have to update your CCR registration annually. If you have any questions about your registration, you should contact the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 to verify that you are still registered in Grants.gov.

**Registration Requirements:** There are several one-time actions you must complete in order to submit an application through Grants.gov (e.g., obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, register with the Central Contract Registry (CCR), register with the credential provider, and register with Grants.gov). See <http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted>. Use the Grants.gov Organization Registration Checklist at <http://www.grants.gov/assets/OrganizationRegCheck.doc> to guide you through the process. Designating an E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in the CCR registration process. Applicants, who are not registered with CCR and Grants.gov, should allow at **least 21 days** to complete these requirements. It is suggested that the process be started as soon as possible.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO POTENTIAL APPLICANTS:** When you have completed the process, you should call the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 to verify that you have completed the final step (i.e. Grants.gov registration).

**MICROSOFT VISTA AND OFFICE 2007 COMPATIBILITY:** Grants.gov is currently incompatible with both the new Microsoft (MS) Vista Operating System and the new Microsoft (MS) Office 2007 versions of Word, Excel and Power Point. In order to create and submit your application to Grants.gov, you must find a computer with a previous version Microsoft Operating System, such as Windows XP.

If you attach a file created using MS Office 2007, you will not get an error message when you submit the application, HOWEVER your entire application will not be able to be processed or accepted at Grants.gov and will not reach DOE. Grants.gov can accept applications with attachments created in MS Office 2007 if the attachments are saved in the prior format. See [www.grants.gov/www.grants.gov/assets/Vista\\_and\\_office\\_07\\_Compatibility.pdf](http://www.grants.gov/www.grants.gov/assets/Vista_and_office_07_Compatibility.pdf) for detailed instructions on how to do this. A file created in MS Office 2007 can be identified by the "x" at the end of the file extension, for example "sample.docx" for a Word file.

Contact Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 with any questions.

**Questions:** Questions relating to the registration process, system requirements, how an application form works, or the submittal process must be directed to Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). Part VII of this announcement explains how to submit other questions to the Department of Energy.

**Application Receipt Notices:** After an application is submitted, the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) will receive a series of five e-mails. It is extremely important that the AOR watch for and save each of the e-mails. It may take up to two (2) business days from application submission to receipt of e-mail Number 2. When the AOR receives e-mail Number

5, it is their responsibility to follow the instructions in the e-mail to logon to IIPS and verify that their application was received by DOE. The titles of the five e-mails are:

Number 1 – Grants.gov Submission Receipt Number

Number 2 – Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt for Application Number

Number 3 – Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt for Application Number

Number 4 – Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment for Application Number

Number 5 – DOE e-Center Grant Application Received

The last e-mail will contain instructions for the AOR to register with the DOE e-Center. If the AOR is already registered with the DOE e-Center, the title of the last e-mail changes to:

Number 5 – DOE e-Center Grant Application Received and Matched

This e-mail will contain the direct link to the application in IIPS. The AOR will need to enter their DOE e-Center user id and password to access the application.

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## **PART I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

### **GENERAL INQUIRIES ABOUT THIS FOA SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

Dr. Sharlene Weatherwax

**Phone:** (301) 903-6165

**Email:** sharlene.weatherwax@science.doe.gov

### **SUMMARY:**

The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (BER) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving applications for research that supports the Genomics: GTL research program ([www.genomicsGTL.energy.gov](http://www.genomicsGTL.energy.gov)). In this Solicitation, applications are solicited for: i.) systems-level research to improve understanding of microbial regulatory and metabolic networks related to hydrogen production, ii.) development of new model organisms for microbial hydrogen production, and iii.) targeted approaches for the identification and characterization of enzymes and biochemical pathways relevant to biological hydrogen production in genome and metagenome sequences

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

The Genomics:GTL program supports basic research aimed at achieving systems level understanding of plants, microbes, and microbial communities relevant to DOE missions in bioenergy, bioremediation of environmental contaminants, and carbon cycling and biosequestration. The Hydrogen Fuel Initiative of 2003 encourages research and development of carbon-neutral hydrogen production for future national bioenergy needs. In support of this initiative, further research is needed on the molecular mechanisms underlying biological hydrogen production by microbes via various biochemical mechanisms such as nitrogenase-mediated, fermentative, and biophotolytic pathways. Advancing fundamental scientific knowledge in this area will be critical to characterizing enzymatic structure and function, modeling regulatory and metabolic networks, and engineering of enzymes and organisms to improve biological hydrogen production for a future hydrogen economy.

Continued development of model systems for biological hydrogen production will require systems biology approaches aimed at defining the regulatory and metabolic networks governing hydrogen metabolism at the organism level. This is especially important in terms of understanding the interrelation of relevant cellular pathways and processes including photosynthesis, carbon assimilation, nitrogen fixation, and maintenance of redox homeostasis. Recent advances in functional genomics such as transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics have provided powerful new approaches for developing models of regulation and metabolism necessary to understand how microbial cells integrate environmental signals and respond to shifting environmental conditions. Further research is needed on systems-level processes relating to hydrogen production in both established and developing model organisms.

The majority of studies on biological hydrogen production by microbes (i.e. prokaryotes, unicellular eukaryotes, and fungi) are based on a relatively limited set of model organisms. DOE recognizes that additional research to characterize the vast diversity of enzymes and metabolic pathways related to microbial hydrogen that exist in nature has tremendous potential

to advance biohydrogen production. Identification of new model organisms, further characterization of alternative strains of existing models, and development of genetic systems and other tools to advance research on promising new models would greatly facilitate the functional understanding of new biohydrogen systems. In addition to studying model organisms in pure culture, some biochemical reactions of interest may require the concerted action of consortial groups of microorganisms ranging from dual partner syntrophic associations to more complex community-level interactions in marine or terrestrial environments. Although study of these systems presents a greater technical challenge, understanding hydrogen production and metabolism by multi-species consortia is likely to significantly expand our understanding of the diversity of hydrogen-related biochemical pathways. In addition to investigations of cultivated organisms, innovative approaches are needed to identify and characterize target genes and enzymes relevant to hydrogen production in genome sequences of cultivated organisms as well as in uncultivated organisms whose genomes are enmeshed within metagenome libraries.

Applications are solicited for basic research on biological hydrogen production in the following areas:

- **Systems-level studies on regulatory and metabolic networks involved in microbial hydrogen production in established or developing model organisms.** Emphasis should be placed on understanding processing of environmental signals and/or integration of relevant biochemical pathways and cellular processes at the organism level. Applications focused on metabolic engineering for improvement of hydrogen production via alteration of specific metabolic modules are not encouraged for this solicitation.
- **Development of new model organisms or multi-species microbial consortia for biological hydrogen production.** Applicants must address how new models will advance general understanding of microbial hydrogen production and serve as potential platforms for systems-level studies. Development needs (i.e. new genetic or genomics tools, physiological characterization, etc.) should be clearly articulated. Applications for the refinement or incremental improvement of established model systems are not encouraged.
- **Targeted identification of novel genes, enzymes, and biochemical pathways relevant to biological hydrogen production (i.e. hydrogenases, nitrogenases, electron transport chains, photosystems, etc.) in genome sequences or metagenome libraries.** Potential approaches may include (but are not limited to) bioinformatics, functional characterizations, or combinations thereof applied to genes or proteins of interest. Applications should leverage existing genomic resources; requests for new genome or metagenome sequencing are not encouraged for this solicitation.

Applications to pursue microbial fuel cell systems, biomimetic hydrogen production systems, or process improvements of industrial biohydrogen production from waste streams are not encouraged for this solicitation.

**Information and Data Sharing Policy:** The Genomics:GTL information-sharing policy requires that all publication related information and materials be made available 3 months after publication. All Principal Investigators (PIs) within the GTL program will be required to

construct and implement an Information and Data-Sharing Plan that ensures this accessibility as a component of their funded projects. As a element of an Information and Data Sharing plan, OBER will require that all publishable information resulting from GTL funded research must conform to community recognized standard formats when they exist, be clearly attributable, and be deposited within a community recognized public database(s) appropriate for the research conducted. All experimental data obtained as a result of GTL funded research must be kept in an archive maintained by the Principal Investigator (PI) for the duration of the funded project. Any publications resulting from the use of shared experimental data must accurately acknowledge the original source or provider of the attributable data.

The Genomics:GTL program supports a combination of large, well integrated, multidisciplinary research centers and smaller, focused research projects. This solicitation will support smaller, focused research projects by single investigators or collaborative research teams to develop new technologies, research strategies, or research resources needed by the Genomics:GTL program.

Information on the research projects currently funded by the Genomics:GTL program and a description of project goals and overall program organization can be found at: <http://genomicsgtl.energy.gov/>.



## **PART II – AWARD INFORMATION**

### **A. TYPE OF AWARD INSTRUMENT.**

DOE anticipates awarding grants under this program announcement.

### **B. ESTIMATED FUNDING.**

It is anticipated that up to \$4 million total will be available for multiple awards to be made in Fiscal Year 2008. The number of awards will be contingent on satisfactory peer review, the availability of appropriated funds, and the size of the awards. Multiple year funding is expected. Applications may request project support for up to three years, with out-year support contingent on the availability of funds, progress of the research, and programmatic needs. Annual budgets are expected to range from \$250,000 to \$600,000 total costs. DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of a proposal. DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this Notice.

### **C. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM AWARD SIZE.**

See B. Estimated Funding section above.

### **D. EXPECTED NUMBER OF AWARDS.**

See B. Estimated Funding section above.

### **E. ANTICIPATED AWARD SIZE.**

See B. Estimated Funding section above.

### **F. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.**

See B. Estimated Funding section above.

### **G. TYPE OF APPLICATION.**

DOE will accept new applications under this Announcement.

### **PART III - ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

#### **A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.**

Applicants from U.S. Colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, for-profit commercial organizations, state and local governments, and unaffiliated individuals are eligible to apply.

Researchers from other Federal agencies are encouraged to submit a preapplication referencing this Program Solicitation DE-PS02-08ER08-12; if a formal proposal is encouraged, additional submission information will be provided.

#### **B. COST SHARING.**

Cost sharing is not required.

#### **C. OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**

N/A

## PART IV – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### A. ADDRESS TO REQUEST APPLICATION PACKAGE.

Application forms and instructions are available at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, select "Apply for Grants", and then select "Download Application Package". Enter the CFDA and/or the funding opportunity number located on the cover of this announcement and then follow the prompts to download the application package.

### B. LETTER OF INTENT AND PREAPPLICATION.

#### 1. Letter of Intent.

A Letter of Intent is not required.

#### 2. Preapplication.

Potential applicants are **required** to submit a brief preapplication, referencing **Program Solicitation DE-PS02-08ER08-12 for receipt by DOE by 4:30 p.m., Eastern Time, February 22, 2008**. Preapplications will be reviewed for conformance with the guidelines presented in this Solicitation and suitability in the technical areas specified in this Solicitation. A response to the preapplications encouraging or discouraging formal applications will be communicated to the applicants by **February 29, 2008**. Applicants who have not received a response regarding the status of their preapplication by this date are responsible for contacting the program to confirm this status.

Only those preapplicants that receive notification from DOE encouraging a formal application may submit full applications. **No other formal applications will be considered.**

Potential applicants **must** submit a brief preapplication that consists of no more than three pages of narrative stating the research objectives, describing the technical approach(s), and identifying the proposed team members and their expertise. The intent in requesting a preapplication is to save time and effort of applicants in preparing and submitting a formal project application that may be inappropriate for the solicitation. Preapplications will be reviewed relative to the scope and research needs as outlined in the summary paragraph and in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION. The preapplication should identify, on the cover sheet, the title of the project, the institution or organization, principal investigator name, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address. No budget information or biographical data need be included, nor is an institutional endorsement necessary.

Preapplications referencing Program Solicitation **DE-PS02-08ER08-12** should be sent as a text file or single PDF file attachments via e-mail to: **genomicsGTL@science.doe.gov** with "Preapplication **DE-PS02-08ER08-12** Biohydrogen Lastname Institution" as the subject. No FAX or mail submission of preapplications will be accepted.

## C. CONTENT AND FORM OF APPLICATION – SF 424 (R&R).

You must complete the mandatory forms and any applicable optional forms (e.g., SF-LLL-Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below. **Files that are attached to the forms must be in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) unless otherwise specified in this announcement.**

### 1. SF 424 (R&R).

Complete this form first to populate data in other forms. Complete all the required fields in accordance with the pop-up instructions on the form. To activate the instructions, turn on the “Help Mode” (Icon with the pointer and question mark at the top of the form). The list of certifications and assurances referenced in Field 18 can be found on the Applicant and Recipient Page at [http://management.energy.gov/business\\_doe/business\\_forms.htm](http://management.energy.gov/business_doe/business_forms.htm), under Certifications and Assurances.

### 2. RESEARCH AND RELATED Other Project Information.

Complete questions 1 through 5 and attach files. The files must comply with the following instructions:

#### **Project Summary/Abstract (Field 6 on the Form).**

The project summary/abstract must contain a summary of the proposed activity suitable for dissemination to the public. It should be a self-contained document that identifies the name of the applicant, the project director/principal investigator(s) (PD/PI), the project title, the objectives of the project, the hypotheses to be tested, the proposed experimental design, the names of **all investigators** and their affiliations, and the potential impact of the project (i.e., benefits, outcomes). This document must not include any proprietary or sensitive business information as the Department may make it available to the public. The project summary must not exceed 1 page when printed using standard 8.5” by 11” paper with 1” margins (top, bottom, left and right) with font not smaller than 11 point. To attach a Project Summary/Abstract, click “Add Attachment.”

#### **Project Narrative (Field 7 on the form).**

The project narrative for an **Application must not exceed 15 pages** of technical information, including charts, graphs, maps, photographs, and other pictorial presentations, when printed using standard 8.5” by 11” paper with 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right). **EVALUATORS WILL ONLY REVIEW THE NUMBER OF PAGES SPECIFIED IN THE PRECEDING SENTENCE.** The font must not be smaller than 11 point. Do not include any Internet addresses (URLs) that provide information necessary to review the application, because the information contained in these sites will not be reviewed. See Part VIII.D for instructions on how to mark proprietary application information. To attach a Project Narrative, click “Add Attachment.”

**The first page of your narrative must include the following information (this page will not count in the project narrative page limitation):**

Applicant/Institution:  
Street Address/City/State/Zip:  
Principal Investigator:  
Address:  
Telephone Number:  
Email:  
DOE/Office of Science Program Office:  
DOE/Office of Science Program Office Technical Contact:  
DOE Grant Number (if Renewal or Supplemental Application):

Is this a Collaboration? If yes, please list ALL Collaborating Institutions/PIs\* and indicate which ones will also be submitting applications.

*\* Note that collaborating applications must be submitted separately.*

The narrative comprises the research plan for the project. Letters of intent from all collaborators and short curriculum vitae of all senior personnel must be included in the application. Applications not meeting these requirements will be deemed ineligible during the initial screening process. The major part of the narrative should be devoted to a description and justification of the proposed project, including details of the methods to be used. It should also include a timeline for the major activities of the proposed project, and should indicate which project personnel will be responsible for which activities.

The project narrative must include:

Project Objectives:

This section should provide a clear, concise statement of the specific objectives/aims of the proposed project.

Project Timetable:

This section should outline as a function of time, year by year, all the important activities or phases of the project, including any activities planned beyond the project period. Successful applicants must use this project timetable to report progress.

Project Performance Site:

Indicate the primary site where the work will be performed. If a portion of the work will be performed at any other sites, identify those sites, also.

Biographical Sketch Appendix:

Provide a biographical sketch for the project director/principal investigator (PD/PI) and each senior/key person listed in Section A on the R&R Budget form. **Provide the biographical sketch information as an appendix to your project narrative. Do not attach a separate file.** The biographical sketch appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation. The biographical information for each person must not exceed 2 pages when printed on 8.5" by 11" paper with 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) with font not smaller than 11 point and must include:

Education and Training. Undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral training, provide institution, major/area, degree and year.

Research and Professional Experience: Beginning with the current position list, in chronological order, professional/academic positions with a brief description.

Publications. Provide a list of up to 10 publications most closely related to the proposed project. For each publication, identify the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article title, book or journal title, volume number, page numbers, year of publication, and website address if available electronically.

Patents, copyrights and software systems developed may be provided in addition to or substituted for publications.

Synergistic Activities. List no more than 5 professional and scholarly activities related to the effort proposed.

Current and Pending Support Appendix.

Provide a list of all current and pending support (both Federal and non-Federal) for the Project Director/Principal Investigator(s) (PD/PI) and senior/key persons, including subawardees, for ongoing projects and pending applications. For each organization providing support, show the total award amount for the entire award period (including indirect costs) and the number of person-months per year to be devoted to the project by the senior/key person. **Provide the Current and Pending Support as an appendix to your project narrative. Do not attach a separate file. The Current and Pending Support Appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.** Concurrent submission of an application to other organizations for simultaneous consideration will not prejudice its review.

Identification of Potential Conflicts of Interest or Bias in Selection of Reviewers Appendix.

**Provide the following information in this appendix and append to your project narrative. Do not attach a separate file. (This appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation):**

Collaborators and Co-editors: List in alphabetical order all persons, including their current organizational affiliation, who are, or who have been, collaborators or co-authors with you on a research project, book or book article, report, abstract, or paper during the 36 months preceding the submission of this application. Also, list any individuals who are currently, or have been, co-editors with you on a special issue of a journal, compendium, or conference proceedings during the 24 months preceding the submission of this application. If there are no collaborators or co-editors to report, state "None."

Graduate and Postdoctoral Advisors and Advisees: List the names and current

organizational affiliations of your graduate advisor(s) and principal postdoctoral sponsor(s) during the last 5 years. Also, list the names and current organizational affiliations of your graduate students and postdoctoral associates during the past 5 years.

#### **Bibliography & References Cited Appendix.**

Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Project Narrative. Each reference must include the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. Include only bibliographic citations. Applicants should be especially careful to follow scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials relied upon when preparing any section of the application. In order to reduce the number of files attached to your application, please provide the Bibliography and References Cited information as an appendix to your project narrative. This appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.

#### **Facilities & Other Resources Appendix.**

This information is used to assess the capability of the organizational resources, including subawardee resources, available to perform the effort proposed. Identify the facilities to be used (Laboratory, Animal, Computer, Office, Clinical and Other). If appropriate, indicate their capacities, pertinent capabilities, relative proximity, and extent of availability to the project. Describe only those resources that are directly applicable to the proposed work. Describe other resources available to the project (e.g., machine shop, electronic shop) and the extent to which they would be available to the project. In order to reduce the number of files attached to your application, please provide the Facility and Other Resource information as an appendix to your project narrative. This appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.

#### **Equipment Appendix.**

List major items of equipment already available for this project and, if appropriate identify location and pertinent capabilities. In order to reduce the number of files attached to your application, please provide the Equipment information as an appendix to your project narrative. This appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.

#### **Other Attachment Appendix.**

If you need to elaborate on your responses to questions 1-5 on the “Other Project Information” document, please provide this information as an appendix to your project narrative. This appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.

**Do not attach files for fields 8, 9, 10, and 11, instead follow the above instructions to include the information as appendices to the project narrative file (these appendices will not count in the project narrative page limitation).**

### **3. RESEARCH AND RELATED BUDGET.**

Complete the Research and Related Budget form in accordance with the instructions on the form (Activate Help Mode to see instructions) and the following instructions. You

must complete a separate budget for each year of support requested. The form will generate a cumulative budget for the total project period. You must complete all the mandatory information on the form before the NEXT PERIOD button is activated. You may request funds under any of the categories listed as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work, meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles, and are not prohibited by the funding restrictions in this announcement (See PART IV, G).

**Budget Justification (Field K on the form).**

Provide the required supporting information for the following costs (See R&R Budget instructions): equipment; domestic and foreign travel; participant/trainees; material and supplies; publication; consultant services; ADP/computer services; subaward/consortium/contractual; equipment or facility rental/user fees; alterations and renovations; and indirect cost type. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request. **Attach a single budget justification file for the entire project period in Field K.** The file automatically carries over to each budget year.

**4. SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities.**

If applicable, complete SF- LLL. Applicability: If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the grant/cooperative agreement, you must complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying."

**Summary of Required Forms/Files**

Your application must include the following documents:

Name of Document	Format	Attach to
<b>SF 424 (R&amp;R)</b>	PureEdge Form	N/A
<b>RESEARCH AND RELATED Other Project Information</b>	PureEdge Form	N/A
Project Summary/Abstract	PDF	Field 6
Project Narrative, including required appendices	PDF	Field 7
<b>RESEARCH &amp; RELATED BUDGET</b>	PureEdge Form	N/A
Budget Justification	PDF	Field K

**D. SUBMISSIONS FROM SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.**



If selected for award, DOE reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information for any reason deemed necessary, including, but not limited to:

- Indirect cost information
- Other budget information
- Name and phone number of the Designated Responsible Employee for complying with national policies prohibiting discrimination (See 10 CFR 1040.5)
- Representation of Limited Rights Data and Restricted Software, if applicable
- Commitment Letter from Third Parties Contributing to Cost Sharing, if applicable

## **E. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES.**

### **1. Letter of Intent Due Date.**

A Letter of Intent (LOI) is not required.

### **2. Preapplication Due Date.**

Preapplications must be received by February 22, 2008, 4:30 pm Eastern Time (See part IV.B.2)

### **3. Formal Applications.**

Formal applications submitted in response to this Announcement must be received by April 9, 2008, 8:00 p.m. Eastern, to permit timely consideration of awards in Fiscal Year 2008. **You are encouraged to transmit your application well before the deadline. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE REVIEWED OR CONSIDERED FOR AWARD.**

## **F. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW.**

This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

## **G. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS.**

Cost Principles. Costs must be allowable in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles referenced in 10 CFR Part 600.

Pre-award Costs. Recipients may charge to an award resulting from this announcement pre-award costs that were incurred within the ninety (90) calendar day period immediately preceding the effective date of the award, if the costs are allowable in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles referenced in 10 CFR Part 600. Recipients must obtain the prior approval of the contracting officer for any pre-award costs that are for periods greater than this 90 day calendar period.

Pre-award costs are incurred at the applicant's risk. DOE is under no obligation to reimburse

such costs if for any reason the applicant does not receive an award or if the award is made for a lesser amount than the applicant expected.

## **H. OTHER SUBMISSION AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.**

### **1. Where to Submit.**

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH GRANTS.GOV TO BE CONSIDERED FOR AWARD.** Submit electronic applications through the “Apply for Grants” function at [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov). If you have problems completing the registration process or submitting your application, call Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or send an email to [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

### **2. Registration Process.**

You must COMPLETE the one-time registration process (all steps) before you can submit your first application through Grants.gov (See [www.grants.gov/GetStarted](http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted)). **We recommend that you start this process at least three weeks before the application due date.** It may take 21 days or more to complete the entire process. Use the Grants.gov Organizational Registration Checklists at <http://www.grants.gov/assets/OrganizationRegCheck.doc> to guide you through the process. **IMPORTANT:** During the CCR registration process, you will be asked to designate an E-Business Point of Contact (EBIZ POC). The EBIZ POC must obtain a special password called “Marketing Partner identification Number” (MPIN). When you have completed the process, you should call the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 to verify that you have completed the final step (i.e. Grants.gov registration).

### **3. Application Receipt Notices.**

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Number 1 - Grants.gov Submission Receipt Number  
Number 2 - Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt for Application Number  
Number 3 - Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt for Application Number  
Number 4 - Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment for Application Number  
Number 5 – DOE e-Center Grant Application Received

The last email will contain instructions for the AOR to register with the DOE e-Center. If the AOR is already registered with the DOE e-Center, the title of the last email changes to:

Number 5 – DOE e-Center Grant Application Received and Matched

This email will contain the direct link to the application in IIPS. The AOR will need to enter their DOE e-Center user id and password to access the application.

## **Part V - APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION**

### **A. CRITERIA.**

#### **1. Initial Review Criteria.**

Prior to a comprehensive merit evaluation, DOE will perform an initial review in accordance with 10 CFR 605.10(b).

#### **2. Merit Review Criteria.**

Applications will be subjected to scientific merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following evaluation criteria listed in descending order of importance as codified at 10 CFR 605.10(d):

1. Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Project
2. Appropriateness of the Proposed Approach and Methods
3. Competency of the Research Team and Adequacy of Available Resources
4. Justification of the Proposed Budget.

The evaluation will include program policy factors such as the relevance of the proposed research to the terms of the announcement and the agency's programmatic needs. It should be noted that external peer reviewers are selected on the basis of their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Non-federal reviewers may be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this review process is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution.

### **B. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS.**

#### **1. Merit Review.**

Applications that pass the initial review will be subjected to a merit review in accordance with the guidance provided in the “Office of Science Merit Review System for Financial Assistance.” This Merit Review System is available at: <http://www.science.doe.gov/grants/merit.html>.

#### **2. Selection.**

The Selection Official will consider the merit review recommendation, program policy factors, and the amount of funds available.

#### **3. Discussions and Award.**

The Government may enter into discussions with a selected applicant for any reason deemed necessary, including but not limited to: (1) the budget is not appropriate or reasonable for the requirement; (2) only a portion of the application is selected for award; (3) the Government needs additional information to determine that the recipient is capable of complying with the requirements in 10 CFR part 600 and 605; and/or (4) special terms and conditions are required.

Failure to resolve satisfactorily the issues identified by the Government will preclude award to the applicant.

**C. ANTICIPATED NOTICE OF SELECTION AND AWARD DATES.**

DOE intends to make awards in FY 2008.

## **Part VI - AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **A. AWARD NOTICES.**

#### **1. Notice of Selection.**

DOE will notify applicants selected for award. This notice of selection is not an authorization to begin performance. (See Part IV.G with respect to the allowability of pre-award costs.)

Organizations whose applications have not been selected will be advised as promptly as possible. This notice will explain why the application was not selected.

#### **2. Notice of Award.**

A Notice of Financial Assistance Award issued by the contracting officer is the authorizing award document. It normally includes, either as an attachment or by reference: 1. Special Terms and Conditions; 2. Applicable program regulations, if any; 3. Application as approved by DOE; 4. DOE assistance regulations at 10 CFR Part 600, or, for Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) institutions, the FDP terms and conditions; 5. National Policy Assurances to Be Incorporated As Award Terms; 6. Budget Summary; and 7. Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, which identifies the reporting requirements.

### **B. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS.**

#### **1. Administrative Requirements.**

The administrative requirements for DOE grants and cooperative agreements are contained in 10 CFR Part 600 and 10 CFR Part 605 (See: <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>), except for grants made to Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) institutions. The FDP terms and conditions and DOE FDP agency specific terms and conditions are located on the National Science Foundation web site at [http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/fed\\_dem\\_part.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/fed_dem_part.jsp).

#### **2. Special Terms and Conditions and National Policy Requirements.**

##### **Special Terms and Conditions and National Policy Requirements.**

The DOE Special Terms and Conditions for Use in Most Grants and Cooperative Agreements are located at [http://management.energy.gov/business\\_doe/business\\_forms.htm](http://management.energy.gov/business_doe/business_forms.htm). The National Policy Assurances to Be Incorporated As Award Terms are located at [http://management.energy.gov/business\\_doe/business\\_forms.htm](http://management.energy.gov/business_doe/business_forms.htm).

##### **Intellectual Property Provisions.**

The standard DOE financial assistance intellectual property provisions applicable to the various types of recipients are located at [http://www.gc.energy.gov/financial\\_assistance\\_awards.htm](http://www.gc.energy.gov/financial_assistance_awards.htm).

## **C. REPORTING.**

Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, DOE F4600.2, attached to the award agreement.

## **PART VII - QUESTIONS/AGENCY CONTACTS**

### **A. QUESTIONS.**

Questions regarding the content of the announcement must be submitted through the “Submit Question” feature of the DOE Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) at <http://e-center.doe.gov>. Locate the program announcement on IIPS and then click on the “Submit Question” button. Enter required information. You will receive an electronic notification that your question has been answered. DOE will try to respond to a question within 3 business days, unless a similar question and answer have already been posted on the website.

Questions relating to the registration process, system requirements, how an application form works, or the submittal process must be directed to Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). DOE cannot answer these questions.

### **B. AGENCY CONTACT:**

**GENERAL INQUIRIES ABOUT THIS NOTICE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

#### **Agency Contact:**

Dr. Sharlene Weatherwax

**Phone:** (301) 903-6165

**Email:** [sharlene.weatherwax@science.doe.gov](mailto:sharlene.weatherwax@science.doe.gov)



## **PART VIII - OTHER INFORMATION**

### **A. MODIFICATIONS.**

Notices of any modifications to this announcement will be posted on Grants.gov and the DOE Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS). You can receive an email when a modification or an announcement message is posted by joining the mailing list for this announcement through the link in IIPS. When you download the application at Grants.gov, you can also register to receive notifications of changes through Grants.gov.

### **B. GOVERNMENT RIGHT TO REJECT OR NEGOTIATE.**

DOE reserves the right, without qualification, to reject any or all applications received in response to this announcement and to select any application, in whole or in part, as a basis for negotiation and/or award.

### **C. COMMITMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS.**

The Contracting Officer is the only individual who can make awards or commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. A commitment by other than the Contracting Officer, either explicit or implied, is invalid.

### **D. PROPRIETARY APPLICATION INFORMATION.**

Patentable ideas, trade secrets, proprietary or confidential commercial or financial information, disclosure of which may harm the applicant, should be included in an application only when such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project. The use and disclosure of such data may be restricted, provided the applicant includes the following legend on the first page of the project narrative and specifies the pages of the application which are to be restricted:

“The data contained in pages \_\_\_\_\_ of this application have been submitted in confidence and contain trade secrets or proprietary information, and such data shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes, provided that if this applicant receives an award as a result of or in connection with the submission of this application, DOE shall have the right to use or disclose the data herein to the extent provided in the award. This restriction does not limit the government’s right to use or disclose data obtained without restriction from any source, including the applicant.”

To protect such data, each line or paragraph on the pages containing such data must be specifically identified and marked with a legend similar to the following:

“The following contains proprietary information that (name of applicant) requests not be released to persons outside the Government, except for purposes of review and evaluation.”

### **E. EVALUATION AND ADMINISTRATION BY NON-FEDERAL PERSONNEL.**

In conducting the merit review evaluation, the Government may seek the advice of qualified non-Federal personnel as reviewers. The Government may also use non-Federal personnel to conduct routine, nondiscretionary administrative activities. The applicant, by submitting its application, consents to the use of non-Federal reviewers/administrators. Non-Federal reviewers must sign conflict of interest and non-disclosure agreements prior to reviewing an application.

Non-Federal personnel conducting administrative activities must sign a non-disclosure agreement.

#### **F. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS PROGRAM.**

Patent Rights. The government will have certain statutory rights in an invention that is conceived or first actually reduced to practice under a DOE award. 42 U.S.C. 5908 provides that title to such inventions vests in the United States, except where 35 U.S.C. 202 provides otherwise for nonprofit organizations or small business firms. However, the Secretary of Energy may waive all or any part of the rights of the United States subject to certain conditions. (See “Notice of Right to Request Patent Waiver” in paragraph G below.)

Rights in Technical Data. Normally, the government has unlimited rights in technical data created under a DOE agreement. Delivery or third party licensing of proprietary software or data developed solely at private expense will not normally be required except as specifically negotiated in a particular agreement to satisfy DOE’s own needs or to insure the commercialization of technology developed under a DOE agreement.

#### **G. NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST PATENT WAIVER.**

Applicants may request a waiver of all or any part of the rights of the United States in inventions conceived or first actually reduced to practice in performance of an agreement as a result of this announcement, in advance of or within 30 days after the effective date of the award. Even if such advance waiver is not requested or the request is denied, the recipient will have a continuing right under the award to request a waiver of the rights of the United States in identified inventions, i.e., individual inventions conceived or first actually reduced to practice in performance of the award. Any patent waiver that may be granted is subject to certain terms and conditions in 10 CFR 784.

Domestic small businesses and domestic nonprofit organizations will receive the patent rights clause at 37 CFR 401.14, i.e., the implementation of the Bayh-Dole Act. This clause permits domestic small business and domestic nonprofit organizations to retain title to subject inventions. Therefore, small businesses and nonprofit organizations do not need to request a waiver.

#### **H. NOTICE REGARDING ELIGIBLE/INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**

Eligible activities under this program include those which describe and promote the understanding of scientific and technical aspects of specific energy technologies, but not those which encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned or pending legislation.